

# **City of Rockville Environment Commission**

## **Sustainable Development and Energy Committee (SDEC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**

**Diamondback Terrapin Room, City Hall**

#### **1. Welcome / Agenda Review/Minutes Adoption**

- In attendance: Clark Reed, John Becker, Lea Rosenbohm, Devinie Rukshani Lye (via phone), and staff liaison Erica Shingara. The meeting convened at 7:00.

#### **2. Environment Commission Report**

- The Commission toured the new police station; including, the green roof on the annex. John Becker and Devinie Rukshani Lye will share green roof photos.
- Rockville Summit- Due to schedule conflicts, SDEC members have not been able to participate in summer Summit work group meetings. A Summit meeting was also scheduled for August 21.

#### **3. Environmental Management Division Report**

- Erica Shingara presented updates on EMD staffing levels and preliminary budget information. A reduction in property tax revenue is expected in FY13 and FY14, which is associated with a reduction in real property taxable assessed values. Given that property taxes represent the majority of the City's total revenue, the Mayor and Council will consider additional work sessions in the fall to evaluate options to maintain a balanced budget. Given these circumstances, we are cautious about embarking on new programs that require new funding or resources and have canceled the September high performance building outreach meeting until funds are appropriated for the program.
- A conservation landscaping workshop will be held on September 9.
- The Technical Guide on Energy and Historic Preservation is tentatively scheduled for the Mayor and Council meeting on September 10.
- A Healthy Living Expo will be held on September 29 in Town Square.
- Montgomery County's fall Community Service Day is October 27, 2012.
- The draft Rock Creek Watershed Study should be available in mid-September for discussion at the October Commission meeting.
- The Watershed Committee will be evaluating dates for the fall stream cleanup.
- Rockville has been invited to host a Maryland Clean Car Clinic, a collaborative project of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC), and the University of Maryland Motor Transportation Services (MTS). The Clinic provides residents and employees access to a FREE car inspection to help ensure vehicles are well maintained, get better gas mileage, and reduce emissions. The clinic will be held on Friday, April 26, 2013 from 9-noon at the Thomas Farm Community Center. 22 reservations will be accepted on a first-
- Rockville Rewards Cards (an action linked to the Sustainable Maryland Certified program for promoting local businesses) will go on sale September 1, 2012. The card supports

local businesses, provides access to unlimited discounts, and helps raise money for local charities, schools and non-profit organizations. The card is just \$25. Cardholders will have a year to enjoy discounts at businesses all around Rockville for food, drink, retails, services, fitness, and much more. You can find more details and where you can purchase the card at the Rockville Chamber of Commerce website.

- The Universities at Shady Grove Community Day will be held on September 22, 10-3 p.m. Rockville will have a table to showcase environmental and sustainability initiatives. Several other green speakers and firms will be there. The Commission and Committees are invited to volunteer at the Sustainable Rockville booth and tour the green building. The Commission should review materials needed for the booth and volunteer sign-up.
- The Croydon Creek Nature Center will screen the movie YERT (Your Environmental Road Trip) on October 24 from 7-9 p.m. Information is in the Rec Guide. The Commission may consider inviting the multi-city environmental groups, and environmental groups for local high schools, Un. Of Shady Grove and Montgomery College.

#### **4. Energy Competition Work Plan and Funding Sources**

- Clark Reed shared the revised Energy Competition implementation plan and to-do list.
- Given the outlook for future budgets, the SDEC discussed opportunities to pursue grants and potential partnerships with non-profits to implement the energy challenge in the next few years.
- John Becker indicated that the Green Building Institute is working with other local governments on grant applications.
- A non-profit could assist with outreach, training, create competitor kits, and administer a prize for the program. The City or Commission may be able to provide in-kind support for outreach, webpage, meeting space, publicity, etc. Other partners may be able to provide technical expertise (Pepco- energy incentives, local green buildings- tours and tips, MEA- tips, incentives, etc.)
- Next steps:
  - Revise and consolidate the energy competition implementation plan and to-do list to clearly define tasks and responsibilities and develop budget estimate.
  - Research grant opportunities that relate to a community commercial energy efficiency competition.
  - Determine the City's policy for partnering with non-profits and grants.

#### **5. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events**

- John Becker requested information on the Sustainable Maryland Certified program. Application deadlines were June 29. As of last week, there had not been any further announcements of certified communities or details of the awards luncheon at the October MML conference. However, as of 8/22, the website posted that Chestertown and Mount Rainer have also received certification- totaling 4 communities. The inaugural Sustainable Maryland Certified Recognition Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 4, noon to 1 p.m. at Hager Hall in Hagerstown, MD in conjunction with the Maryland Municipal League's Fall Conference.

#### **6. Wrap-up and Adjourn**

The next SDEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, September 18, 2012** at Rockville City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.